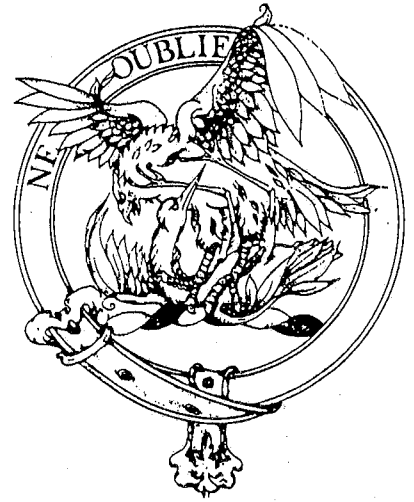




Clan Graham

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Dear Ben and Fern,

I only have a minute but want to take it to tell you I received your kind and loving letter, which means very much to me; and to thank you so very much for your very capable help at the Reunion. I can only echo the words of the many letters and cards that have come in saying, "Words cannot express the joy....". Words ~~escape~~ me, too, but I can tell you that it was the most delightful thing in my life. I have never been in a crowd in which there was such an obvious outpouring of love and affection. How great it is to be a member of Clan Graham!! I'm very sorry for those who did not get to attend; however, perhaps next year. After we left the Reunion that day, some of my immediate family visited with Hazel a couple of hours to critique the Reunion and to make plans for the one next year. We tentatively set the date for the weekend prior to the 4th, same place and everything except that we will not repeat the Program we had this year. It will be continued in the same vein, but will have a greater accent on our Scottish heritage: pipe music, Scottish dancers, maybe Scottish Games, some Scottish dishes, and posters and photographs of Scotland such as some of the Graham castles, estates, battlegrounds, etc. Bob suggested that we (each of Jesse Graham's children's descendents) build booths at which we can post photographs, exhibit family artifacts, distribute family genealogical information, etc. It sounds like a wonderful idea to me. We need input from everybody. I will spearhead this information exchange with periodic Newsletters starting in about a week. I predict that next year the attendance will double or perhaps triple that of this year. But it will be impossible to improve the quality of it. It was such a joy.

I am so sorry that I did not have more time to visit with your mother, but if she will forgive me I intend to make another trip to Texas in a few months and plan to spend a day with her. What a grand lady! We all fell in love with her.

Ben, as for finances, so far I have been able to carry things by myself. However, it may come to a point soon where I need some help. The Newsletters that I want to publish each quarter cost about one dollar each to print, \$.50 each for secretarial help to address, fold and stuff the envelopes, \$.25 each for the brown envelopes, and about \$1.25 each for postage when genealogical information is enclosed. So that approaches \$3.00 per Newsletter and there are now about 500 on the mailing list for a cost of \$1,500 per issue. There were only 200 on the list before, but it has grown (thank God) to larger proportions. My plan is to ask for \$10.00 per year subscription rates to offset the cost of printing and mailing, but the receipt of that money will substantially follow the outlay of publishing money. I never planned on asking for help to defray the costs, but mailouts have increased from 30 to 50 to 100 to 200 to 300 to the present level of 500, and I pray it goes to 5 thousand! As I said at the Reunion, my objective has always been to just spread information about our Clan to the Clan Members, and I was willing to absorb the costs to do so. But it has grown too big for me to handle it alone anymore. While I am reluctant to ask our Clan members for money, the incidental costs must be covered for me to continue.

IN YOUR CASE, ALL DESCENDENTS
OF WM. SMITH GRAHAM.

And I really don't think anyone will mind \$10 per year because we give that much per month for this scandal-happy Los Angeles newspaper. But there is more "missionary" work to be done first in order to let everyone know what is happening, so you and others in our Clan may be getting urgent letters soon hollering "HELP"!

Ben, you did a fantastic job with your presentation, and everyone fell in love with you. At the critique at Hazel's someone asked, "Of all our relatives at the Reunion, which one did you all like best?" An answer came immediately, "What was our cousin's name from Utah?" And there was much agreement on that selection. Indeed we discussed at length what a warm and lovable bunch the descendents of Wm. Smith Graham are. Those cousins of yours are something else. Beautiful, and ladies in the classical sense. Thank God they are my cousins too! Fern, you must know that you made a super-hit with our Clan also. There were several remarks about ol Ben Graham knowing how to pick em. But it's no surprise, he has succeeded at everything else, why wouldn't he pick the best for a wife?

Yes, Ben, I would like a copy of your snapshots. I carried my camera, but was so busy that it was not used.

My niece's name and address to contact about the vidiotape is:

Mary Lee Rubenkonig
844 BridleAve.
Ft. Worth, Texas 76018

Well, I'm still trying to catch up on work that stacked up while I was away, so had better get back to the grindstone. Thanks again for everything, and let me hear from you.

With fondest regards,


Bill